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TO THE HONORABLE THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK:

The Board of Commissioners of the Central Park, in response to the request contained in the following preamble and resolutions, adopted by the Senate on the 3d instant, viz.:

Whereas, the Commissioners of the Central Park, having applied to the Legislature for the sum of Five Millions of Dollars, for the laying out, regulation and government of the Park; namely, two and a half millions for the laying out, and two and a half millions for the care and government of the Park, or the annual interest on that sum, being one hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum, in addition to the sum of two millions of dollars heretofore appropriated by the Legislature for those purposes; and the act of the Legislature, passed 17th April, 1857, page 714, under which said commission was organized, having provided "that no plan for the laying out, regulation, or government of said Park shall be adopted or undertaken by the Commissioners, of which the entire expense, when funded, shall require for the paying of the annual interest thereon a greater sum than $100,000 per annum," that is to say, a funded debt of one million six hundred and sixty-six thousand six hundred and sixty-six dollars, which amount was increased by the act of 15th April, 1859, page 857, to two millions of dollars, but with the like limitation; therefore

Resolved, That the Commissioners of the Central Park are requested to report to the Senate their answers to the following interrogatories:

1. What reasons for having adopted and undertaken a plan for the Park, the execution of which exceeds the limitations of the Legislature, by the Act of 1857?

2. What reasons for having persevered in undertaking the execution of the same plan after the passage of the Act of 1859?

3. The names of the Commissioners voting in favor of the adoption of that plan?

F
128
C3
N5

4. The names of the Commissioners voting upon the questions of doing the work by contract or by days' work?

5. The items of the plan which the Board has resolved to strike out or omit?

6. How much money has been expended below Seventy-ninth street; or how much below Ninety-sixth street; how much below One Hundred and Sixth street; and the number of acres in each section belonging to the Park?

7. How much money is required to be expended in each section—stating the items of expenditure and the cost of each, and which of the items, if any, are essential, and which of them are not essential?

8. How much money had been expended to 18th May, 1858, when the plan was adopted; how much to 1st January, 1859; how much to January 1st, 1860?

9. What amount has been paid for drain-tile, and how much thereof has been laid down in each of the three sections of the Park before mentioned?

10. What are the names of the persons who make purchases for the Central Park? Are the persons so employed connected with any firm in the city of New York; and if so, what firm, and what is the amount annually thus expended?

Respectfully Report:

The act creating said Board, was passed the 17th day of April, 1857. On the 30th of the same month, the Board proceeded to organize under its provisions. On the 13th day of October, 1857, after various preliminary measures, preparatory to the commencement of their work, the Board determined to offer, by public advertisement, premiums for the four designs for laying out the ground of the Park, which should be chosen by the Board.

It was required of competitors, that "reference should be had "to the whole amount of expenditure allowed by the Legisla- "ture, viz., about $1,500,00;" and they were allowed to the 1st day of April, 1858, to hand in their designs: competitors for the prizes were required to "embrace with the report of their plans, the following, with other particulars: The fencing, lighting, draining, irrigating, grubbing, trenching,

and planting the grounds; the filling and the excavations; the width and mode of building the several roads for walking, driving, and riding, and the cost of each item of work in detail, with full and sufficient specifications by which the work can be done."

After an exhibition of the plans for several weeks, in order that a full study and examination of their respective merits might be had by the members of the commission, the Board on the 28th of April, 1858, adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the thirty-three plans, from No. 1 to 33, now on exhibition for the proposed improvement of the Central Park, are regularly before us, in pursuance of the proposals of this Board, and that the selection of the four premium plans be confined to the same—

By the following vote:

Ayes—Messrs. Dillon, Russell, Butterworth, Gray, Hutchins, Green, Elliott, Strong, Hogg, Belmont—10.

Nay—Mr. Fields.

The following resolution was then proposed:

Resolved, That in the examination of the various plans for laying out the Central Park, which have been presented for competition, the Commissioners find them to possess various degrees of merit;—with original, varied, and valuable suggestions for the contemplated object; some of them are of a high order of design, with beautiful illustrations of objects of art contemplated in the future embellishment of the grounds. But the Commissioners deem it proper to declare, that their award of the offered premiums for the best plans does not in any respect commit the Board to the carrying out, in the actual construction of the work, any plan or plans to which the premiums may be awarded; but that from the selected designs which will now become the property of the Board, the Commissioners are at liberty, in the actual construction of the work, to avail themselves of such variations as they deem to be expedient as the groundwork of their future operations, leaving various and many suggestions for the improvement and embellishment of the Park for further development and later decisions.

Which resolution, after various motions to strike out, substitute, &c., was carried by the following vote:

Ayes—Messrs. Russell, Butterworth, Gray, Hutchins, Green, Elliott, Strong, Hogg, Belmont—9.

Nays—Messrs. Dillon, Fields—2.

A further resolution was then adopted, as follows:

Resolved, That the Clerk call the roll, and that each Commissioner, as his name is called, designate the number of the plan he votes for, for the first prize.

The Board proceeded in accordance with this resolution, and with the following result:

Messrs. Dillon, 30; Russell, 33; Butterworth, 33; Gray, 33; Hutchins, 26; Fields, 30; Green, 33; Elliott, 33; Strong, 33; Hogg, 33; Belmont, 30.

For No. 33, 7; for No. 30, 3; for No. 26, 1—11.

To plan No. 33, in general accordance with which the Park is now being constructed, was therefore awarded the first premium.

A copy of the original description which accompanied this plan is annexed, marked "Appendix C."

At a meeting of the Board held on the 18th May, 1858, nearly three weeks after the award of the premiums, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That plan No. is hereby adopted by the Board as the plan for the Central Park, subject to such modifications as may be from time to time ordered by this Board.

The following members voting in the affirmative:

Ayes—Messrs. Dillon, Butterworth, Gray, Green, Strong, Hogg—6.

And a motion to insert "No. 33" in the blank, was adopted by the following vote;

Ayes—Messrs. Russell, Butterworth, Gray, Green, Strong, Hogg—6.

Nay—Mr. Dillon—1.

Absent—Messrs. Hutchins, Belmont, and Elliott.

The reasons for the adoption of this plan were, that the Board deemed it eminently adapted to the ground, and that it seemed to comprehend, in a far greater degree than any other plan presented, provision for the present and future requirements of a great public pleasure-ground, while at the same time it was peculiarly adjusted to the prospective exigencies of commerce, and the current business of a great city.

The plan having been thus adopted, and the work prosecuted for nearly twelve months in accordance therewith, the Board proceeded with it, because it would, in 1859, have been wasteful, destructive to the beauty of the Park, and exceedingly unwise, to have adopted any other course, and to have pieced out the then various half completed structures on any new plan; and further, the Board, in those parts of the work that were then approaching completion, found abundant reason for satisfaction with their choice of plan, and had been fully justified in this choice, by the unbiassed judgment of men versed in all the arts combined in the Park, as well as by the very general approbation of the public.

These, in brief, are the reasons why the Commissioners adopted the plan on which the Park is being constructed, and why they have persevered after the passage of the act of 1859, in the execution of the plan so adopted.

These reasons furnish the response of the Board, to the inquiries of the Honorable the Senate. It would seem, however, from their form, taken together with the preamble, that these questions are propounded under the impression that this Board has exceeded the limitations of the Statute of 1857, and with the object of obtaining from this Board its reasons for proposing the expenditure in the construction of the Park, of a sum of money greater than that to which the preamble seems to assume the Board was limited by the law.

Without at present stopping to question this interpretation of the law given in the preamble and resolutions, the Board proceed respectfully to offer some considerations in this regard.

The section of the law of 1857, incorporated in the preamble, is in these words:

"No plan for the laying out, regulation and government of said Park shall be adopted or undertaken by the Commissioners, of which the entire expense when funded, shall require for the payment of the annual interest thereon a greater sum than one hundred thousand dollars per annum."

It will be apparent to the Honorable the Senate, that the Commissioners, in the outset of their undertaking, proceeded

with deliberation in the awarding the premium to the plan which was afterwards adopted, and that they were influenced by the desire to take the safe course of construing the law before commencing the construction of the Park, as limiting them to the sum therein specified, as nearly as that sum could be ascertained, and as far as such a construction was tenable. The Board accordingly required that all plans should come within the sum that would probably be realized under that law.

The estimates accompanying the plan adopted, as well as those accompanying all the other plans, without any exception, showed that they could be carried out within that sum.

This sum is one which, when funded, would require for the payment of its annual interest, a sum not greater than $100,000. It is not a fixed sum ; it appreciates or diminishes with the rate of interest that the stock bears. The maximum amount of interest is fixed, but not of principal. The amount of principal must be adjusted to produce the specified interest. The rate of interest would necessarily be determined by the condition of monetary affairs when the money was wanted, or the stock issued. The stock might be taken if it bore seven per cent., when it would not be taken if it bore five per cent.

If the stock bore seven per cent. interest, the amount realized under the section would be...	$1,428,571
If six per cent., the amount would be.....	1,666,666
If five per cent., the amount would be.....	2,000,000
If four per cent., the amount would be.....	2,500,000
If three per cent., the amount would be.....	3,333,333

The fact was, as is believed, at a time shortly anterior to the passage of the law, city stocks were marketable at five per cent., while at the time of offering the stock in the market, a few months after, they could not be disposed of at five per cent., and in one case, the loan had no takers, though offered publicly at six per cent., and was only disposed of with great difficulty.

The difference between the issue of the stock, at six or seven per cent., would be a diminution of the sum at the command of the Board, to the extent of.....	$238,095
The difference between five and seven per cent., would diminish it to the extent of.....	571,428

The various structures of the Park were either to be well and sufficiently done, or not. Could the Legislature have intended that the Commissioners should, with reference to such a work as the Central Park of New York, adopt plans that would shift with the money market? or that a work of such extent and permanance, designed for all time, should be cribbed and narrowed to a sum of money not only meagre and insufficient, at the highest amount possible to obtain under the law, but also to a sum that might be decreased with every financial fluctuation? Did the Legislature mean to require the Board to consult the money market before they adopted a plan for the Park? So, that if money was to be had at seven per cent. they should adopt a plan to cost $1,400,000; if five per cent., one to cost $2,000,000?

Again, willing as the Commissioners were, before commencing the work, to take precautions to keep within the limits of a rigid and somewhat forced construction of the law, they were soon called on practically to determine whether they should proceed to carry out the plan in such a superficial and cheap fashion, as would nominally complete the Park within the changing limits of the statute, or whether the structure should be commenced and continued in so thorough a manner, as to render it durable and permanent, expending the money at their command in such a way that it should not be wasted in cheap constructions, but in doing well what was to be done.

The term Park is very indefinite—to one it is an open common, to another it is an organized pleasure-ground for a city. It would have been easy to make a Park with the money allowed by the law, but it would have been a Park unfit for the place—inadequate to the wants of the city, and in the end, a wasteful expenditure of money. For instance—the carriage roads cost as now constructed, about $25,000 per mile—if the Board could have reduced itself to such a view of its duty,

these might have been worked as country roads, at an expense of not over $3,000 per mile, and the inhabitants of New York, supplied with six months drives of dust, and six months of mud.

The thirty miles of walks might have been laid out on the same scale of cheapness; all that is now concealed under the surface, of drainage essential to make the place salubrious, of trenching and fertilizing the soil necessary to the growth of trees, whose flecked shade is to play upon the ruddy cheeks of the children of our grandchildren, the summer houses—the digging of lakes, the sewerage, the cross roads for the accommodation of the traffic of a great city, all these, one after the other, might have been put aside, till the park was shorn to accommodate the sum supposed to be fixed by the statute, but it would have been an unsatisfactory work, and unjustifiable, except upon any but the clearest and most express injunction of law. Did any such injunction exist? Its language is: "*No plan for the laying out, regulation and government of said Park shall be adopted or undertaken, &c.*" Does this require the Commissioners to construct and complete a park for a specific sum?

If any of this language can be made to signify "construction," it is the term "laying out"—the definition of which is, "planning," "disposing," "arranging."

The work of *designing* is a mental operation anterior to laying out, as *laying out* is a process preceding construction; one speaks of laying out or planning a building or a garden.

The word "*regulation*" is evidently here used in the same sense as the word "government," by which it is immediately followed, and of which it is a synonyme.

The same language "regulation and government" is again used in the 4th section, thus, to the Board is given power "to pass ordinances for the regulation and government" of the Park; and, again, in the 14th section, it is said, the Commissioners may "pass such ordinances as they may deem necessary for the regulation, use, and government of said Park,"—showing, that this language in the 9th section was used with respect to the management of the Park only, inasmuch as it is not probable that the power to pass ordinances for the regulation and government of the Park, was intended to operate on construction, but rather on control and management during its progress and after completion.

The words "lay out and regulate" are again used in the 4th section, and the words "lay out and regulation" in the 7th section of the same act, but with no more clearly defined meaning.

It has already been suggested that nothing short of a very *clear and distinct provision of law* would justify men charged with the execution of a most responsible duty, involving the expenditure of large sums of money, in omitting to exercise the same degree of prudence and judgment that ordinarily govern them in their own affairs: Passing by, however, the mere phraseology of the law, it seems equally difficult to evolve from its terms, ideas that it is possible to carry out, or that would prove a safe guide for those to be controlled by them.

The next succeeding section of the act contains a direction to the city authorities to raise moneys by loan, to the extent of a sum, the annual interest of which shall not exceed the amount of interest specified in the 9th section, to wit, $100,000, which loan, it is provided, shall be redeemable in thirty years from its issue.

Conceding that the words "laying out" in the 9th section, mean "construction," the section would be in effect this—that no plan for *construction and government* of the Park shall be adopted, which in its execution shall require more than a sum the annual interest of which shall not exceed $100,000, unless, indeed, it should be contended that the language intended that the expense of a mere plan was to be paid out of the fund and the balance appropriated to the government of the Park, inasmuch, as government commenced immediately with the organization of the commission.

It will be observed by your Honorable Body, that the act makes no other appropriation or provision for the government of the Park.

Taken literally, this section combines notions of political economy, and of finance, involved and impracticable.

And after the ideas are extricated from the language, they will be found impossible of execution, and can only be used to serve with the text of the next section, as a limit of the amount the Commissioners were authorized *to expend*, and not as a limit *upon the cost* of the Park.

It is required that the construction of the Park shall be by loan. This is consistent with sound economy, inasmuch as the money derived from the loan, is represented in the Park provided by it, and which is worth twice the sum borrowed.

It is also required that the moneys necessary for the *government* of the Park, shall be derived from the same loan.

The construction of the Park is a work with a limit; it is capable of completion; it has an end and a bound;—but, the government of a Park, its keeping, its care, its repair, its protection, and the protection of its visitors, its bureau of accounts, in short, its government and regulation, is a continuing business, not to be sustained, except in violation of all rules of economy, by loan or by a construction fund.

The two things will not travel together—construction by borrowing and the annual expenses of government by borrowing.

Should a railroad company borrow to build its road, and resort to the same mode of obtaining money for its annual current expenses, it would have but a very brief existence to care for.

As the means for constructing a work which is to display its highest benefits and beauties to posterity, are very properly chargeable on posterity, in shape of obligations, maturing some years ahead, so it is but just that at least the current annual expenses of maintaining a structure of which the present generation enjoys the use, should be provided annually by tax and not by the process of a loan.

To provide for the current expenses of successive years by a public fund or loan, would be without precedent.

If the expenses of construction *and* of government are both to be paid out of the $1,500,000 provided by the act, to which of these shall it be applied? Assuming the expense of management and government, after the construction is complete, to be $150,000 per annum, the whole fund would be consumed in ten years in government; where, then, is the fund for construction? On the other hand, if the whole fund is used for construction, from what source shall the means come for keeping it after it is completed?

The loan is to be for thirty years; was it the plan of the framers of the law, to pay the expenses of governing the Park for this period of time, and apply the balance to its construction?

A brief trial of a plan to carry on the government of this city by loan instead of tax, by funding the expense of its police, of its street cleaning, of itsl ighting, of all its current expenses of government, would be sufficient to ensure its abandonment.

The Commissioners have had a physical work to perform—they have had matter to deal with; and to do it, they have called to their aid such forces as they could command; they did not see fit to plant trees to be afterward uprooted to supply the drainage; they did not choose to ornament the surface of the landscape, before its basis was complete and thorough; they knew that neither the smooth enamel of the lawn, nor the vigorous foliage of the forest, could come of a stinted soil; they intended to proceed with honest and direct purpose to the performance of their duty.

Were all these processes to be reversed—was the work to be done upon the surface, and everything beneath left undone—was common sense to be set aside on the apprehension that language so indefinite, and ideas so confused as those of the ninth section, could by any process be marshalled to confront and charge them with infidelity to their trust or with dereliction of duty?

The Board are aware that more than ordinary skill and foresight are necessary to frame legislation adequate to all the contingencies that might grow up in the progress of a new enterprize, like constructing the Central Park, and of adjusting its delicate relations to those of the surrounding city.

It is not to be expected that all these contingencies could be provided for by the exercise of all the foresight with which humanity is gifted.

The provisions of the law of 1857 are no exception to this general rule.

A provision should have been made for the maintenance and government of the Park by current annual tax, so that all the expenses of government should not be, as they necessarily have been, charged upon the fund for construction.

To the Legislature of 1859, as well as repeatedly to the Common Council of the city of New York, the Board have, in their communications, shown that the sum of money at their command was insufficient to construct the Park.

Foreseeing the inadequacy of the fund at their disposal for the completion of the Park in a manner commensurate with the necessities of this metropolis, or with the expectations of its citizens, the Board presented, during the past year, a communication to the Common Council of the city of New York, for its approval of an application to the Legislature for an additional sum of money, the annual interest of which should not exceed $150,000 from which communication the following is extracted:

"The Commissioners, in the conduct of the work at the Park, have been governed by the conviction that permanency, thoroughness, and substantiality of structure, are in the end true economy. Much more extended apparent completeness might perhaps have been attained by the amount of money that has been expended, but the work would have wanted the characteristics that now render it so durable and so generally satisfactory.

"Much that is out of sight could have been dispened with, and the same external appearance of finish attained. It would have been, however, that sort of completeness that, as is the case with most of our public works, would have required several years to finish, and at very greatly increased expense over the cost of a thorough structure at the outset. The extended system of drainage, so essential to the salubrity of the Park, and so important to the vegetation that is to adorn it, does its effectual work unseen. The preparation of the ground before planting the trees, might have been accomplished with less expenditure, but high cultivation and fertilization is the preparation for the growth of a century. No part of this island can compare with the area of the Central Park for completeness of drainage, either surface or subterranean; and the city, authorities, as well as the property owners of the vicinity would do well, before the work of building the city in the neighborhood of the Park, to inquire whether modifications of the present method of city drainage might not with advantage be made.

"It has not been unknown to the Board, that the completion of the park on such a basis was not practicable within the sum provided by the Legislature; they have preferred to do the work well, make a park adequate to the necessities of a great city, by a sufficient expenditure of money, rather than shape off a mere field, insalubrious and unattractive, within the limits of the sum at present at their disposal.

"In anticipation of the necessity of legislative action, a

special committee of this Board, during the last summer, examined this subject in detail, and in a report to the Board, present a very careful estimate of the probable cost of completing the park.

"From the investigations of the committee, and from subsequent experience, the Board conclude that application should be made to the Legislature to grant the authority to create and issue of the Central Park Improvement Fund, a further sum, the annual interest of which shall not exceed one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and the Board of Commissioners of the Central Park respectfully request such action of your Honorable Body as shall express a concurrence and approval in such application."

This request received the concurrence of both branches of the Common Council, and in pursuance thereof the present bill is now before the Legislature.

So far as this question is one of mere expenditure of money, it is believed that the interests of the corporate authorities of the city, the taxpayers, and the citizens at large require the speedy completion of this spacious pleasure ground. Without entering upon any detail on this point, the Board will only quote a brief extract from a late report of the Comptroller, the chief financial officer of the city, to the Common Council. It is in these words:

"The increase in the amount of taxes accruing to the city in consequence of the enhancement in value of real estate situated in the upper part of this island, over and above the former value of the land now withdrawn from taxation, on account of the opening of this noble park, will it is thought, afford more than sufficient means for the payment of interest on the debt incurred for its purchase and improvement, without any increase in the general rate of taxation."

The organization of the large forces engaged in the great variety of concurrent and interlacing operations of construction, in such manner that each class may be effectively occupied, and a faithful return of the time of every individual secured, has required very perfect arrangements, and such as could be readily adjusted to the constantly occurring changes in the work.

This organization intimately affects the outgo of the money, and upon its fidelity, and upon the vigor that pervades it, depend the results that are obtained from the means expended.

The construction of the park, in all departments, has been characterized by thorough system, and efficiency, and economy, and has not only been satisfactory to the Board, but, it is believed, has commanded the warm approval of experienced constructors and of the public.

About 10,500 persons have had employment on the park at different times, since its commencement.

4,435 were employed during last year.

The force is paid in specie regularly every fortnight.

The preamble to the resolution adopted by the Senate, represent the Commissioners of the Central Park as applying "to the Legislature for the sum of five millions of dollars for the laying out, regulation and government of the Park, namely, two and a half millions for the laying out, and two and a half millions for the care and government of the Park, or the annual interest on that sum, being an hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum."

Inasmuch as the Commissioners have made no application for any such sum as five millions of dollars, it is apparent that the preamble and resolutions were drawn under a misapprehension of the terms of the bill now before the Senate, and that part of the preamble which states, that the Commissioners apply for "two and a half millions, for the care and government of the Park, or the annual interest on that sum," shows that the same idea of governing the Park, and of its care after completion, by borrowing and expending a principal sum, still had possession of the mind of the framer of the preamble. To say that because the sum of $150,000 is asked for to meet current expenses, therefore the Board either ask for, or add to the cost of the Park a principal sum, of which this is the interest, is like saying that the owner of a country seat, who expends in the course of the year one thousand dollars in keeping his grounds, adds thereby to their cost a principal sum, of which $1,000 is the interest.

A single glance at the bill before the Senate, discovers its objects. They are briefly these:

The first and second sections provide for the creation by the Common Council of the city of New York, of a stock or fund

of $833,333\frac{33}{100}$, in each of three years, for the purpose of completing the Central Park, and for the payment of the interest on this stock. There is no provision of the bill raising the money: its raising is provided for through the authorities of the city, in the customary modes.

The third section provides for raising by the Board of Supervisors in the city of New York, by tax, an annual sum as may be required, not exceeding $150,000 in any one year, for the maintenance and government of the Park—for the current expenses of the Park. This provision supplies the omission in the law of 1857, which has compelled the Board to maintain and govern for nearly three years, out of the principal fund provided by that law.

In addition to these expenses of keeping and of maintaining the Park, are to be added sundry other expenses, not absolutely essential to a Park, but required by public convenience.

The necessary expense to render 59th street, which bounds the Park on the south, and through which the Park will be reached by the greater number of its visitors, a convenient access to the Park, will be not less than about $25,000.

The expense of construction of roads, for facilitating business travel and traffic across the Park, in such manner as not to impede the pleasure travel of the Park, though not strictly a portion of the Park, yet is a great necessity.

To omit these improvements would be a mistake that it would be difficult and expensive to repair. It has been constantly urged in the Board, that the expense of their construction should be separated in the accounts of the Board from other expenditures, with the view of making it the subject of an application for the amount of funds expended in their construction.

The proposed addition to the North end of the Park of about sixty-five acres, as also of the area comprised within the grounds of the late State Arsenal of some six acres, will occasion a large additional expenditure of money.

It is also well known, that up to a time shortly anterior to the passage of the act of 1857, the city had no authority to issue stocks at a rate exceeding five per cent., and that these stocks

were saleable. This rate of interest would have given the Board two millions of dollars, whereas they were issued bearing six per cent., and yielded but $1,666,666, or a difference of $333,-333.

All these circumstances have either diminished the fund at the disposal of the Board, or have thrown upon that fund large expenses, probably not contemplated at the time of the passage of the law, but essential to the perfection of the work committed to the charge of the Board.

Nor is it possible, that the expenditures of a great work like this, can be accurately estimated before hand.

The Legislature could not foresee these contingences, or other exigencies of the work which were to spring up in its progress; the law of 1857 can only be properly construed as expressing the intention of the Legislature to do all it could intelligently do, which was to fix a limit, not what the Park was to cost, but to specify and limit the amount of the annual interest of the sum that at the outset should be placed at the disposal of the Commissioners.

The plan was adopted in 1858, and in 1859 its principal features were in progress. The fact, that after the plan was adopted, and rocks riven, lakes excavated, trees planted, drains laid, drives graded, walks made, bridges erected, on that plan, the Legislature should, after all this had been done, again say in 1859, that no plan "shall be adopted, for the laying out, regulation, and government," &c., re-enacting the section of 1857, *totidem verbis* (excepting the addition of $25,000 to the sum of the interest, the principal of which might be expended,) would seem to be conclusive, that the intention of the Legislature was not to set aside the plan of 1857, to require the adoption of another, but to authorize a further expenditure of about $400,000 in carrying out the plan already adopted.

Did the law of 1859 contemplate the adoption of another plan, or did it contemplate the carrying out of the plan already adopted? If the latter, then the plan already adopted has the express recognition, sanction, and approval of the Legislature.

The Board, in reply to the paragraph No. 4 of the resolution, requesting "the names of the Commissioners voting upon the question of doing the work by contract or by days' work,"

respectfully state, that the first action of the Board authorizing the employment of laborers by the day, was on the 28th July, 1857.

On the question then before the Board:

Messrs. Russell, Butterworth, Gray, Hutchins, Elliott and Hogg voted in the affirmative.

Messrs. Dillon, Fields and Green in the negative.

This negative vote was given, it is believed, on the ground that the Commissioners had not then realized any money to pay with.

The next time the subject of employing more men by day's work came before the Board was on the 8th of September, 1857 Messrs. Cooley, Dillon, Russell, Butterworth, Fields, Green, Strong and Hogg being present; though the ayes and noes were not called, seem to have been unanimous in favor of such employment.

From this time onward, at various times, the force of day laborers, mechanics, cartmen, &c., was increased and decreased from time to time, as the work required.

On the 15th July, 1858, in the midst of the most active operations then proceeding in all departments of the work, in the height of the active working season, with a force of mechanics, day laborers, cartmen, and others of about 1500 men employed, the following resolution was proposed:

Resolved, That the works for drainage, trenching, and irrigation, the excavation and construction of ponds and lakes, and the construction of the Drive, Ride, and Walk, and all other works upon the Park, unless otherwise specially ordered by the Board, be done by contract; and that the architect-in-chief report to this Board working plans, with specifications for each of such works.

Upon this resolution, the vote was—

Ayes—Messrs. Dillon and Belmont—2.

Nays—Messrs. Russell, Gray, Green, Strong—4.

(Five members being absent.)

At the next meeting, Mr. Fields obtained, by unanimous consent, leave to have it entered on the minutes, that, if he had been present, he would have voted in the affirmative.

This action of the Board is presumed to be that respecting which enquiry is made in paragraph No. 4 of the resolutions of the Senate.

The resolutions call for "The items of the plan which the board has resolved to strike out or omit."

So far as formally determined by action of the board, the parts of the original plan which have been omitted, are as follows:

1. An entrance road at Sixtieth street on Eighth avenue, and an entrance on Fifty-ninth street between Sixth and Seventh avenues. A single entrance at the corner of Fifty-ninth street and Eighth avenue has been substituted for these. This has involved the filling of a piece of low ground between Fifty-ninth street and Sixty-second street, adjoining Eighth avenue, the expense of which—as well as the objectionable character of this entrance, owing to the meeting of various angles at the intersection of the Eighth avenue, Fifty-ninth street, and Bloomingdale road—was intended to be avoided by the original plan. The advantages of the course finally adopted seemed, to the judgment of the board, to warrant the additional expense.

2. The entrance at 103d street of the original plan has been transferred to 100th street. This change was made upon the recommendation of the designers of the original plan, in consequence of the extension of the limits of the park, authorized by the legislature in 1859.

The response of the board to the questions numbered in the preamble and resolutions Nos. 6 and 7, will be found given, with all practicable accuracy, by the appendices hereto annexed, marked A and B.

"Which of the items, if any, are essential, and which of them are non-essential?"

There are now in use about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of carriage road, firm, smooth, of easy grades, and so drained and constructed as to be frost and storm proof, and therefore available at any season of the year, being much the best road in the United States, although not superior to many in Europe. There are also already in use $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles of firm, smooth, and substantially constructed walks. Both carriage-roads and walks are carried through rural grounds, which have been well drained and freed from disagreeable objects, and whatever is likely to render the air impure. These

grounds have been to some extent planted. What is essential to the definition of a Park is therefore provided, and the Board find it difficult to draw the distinction required by the Senate between the essential and the non-essentialities of the work remaining to be done, except with reference to their own standard, of what is fitting the common pleasure-ground of two millions of citizens. Every item of their estimated expenditure is essential to this ideal.

No one of them can be omitted without causing an incongruity, or leaving the Park incomplete. In the item for bridges, for instance, a considerable sum might be saved by the substitution of wood for stone or iron; but wooden bridges would be incongruous, after what has been already done. A larger sum might be saved by dispensing entirely with some of the proposed bridges; but this would leave incomplete a system of walks, drives, and rides, which has been partially realized, and of which each of the proposed bridges is a necessary member. It would also render much work that has been done useless, or destroy its original purpose.

The amount of money expended to 18th May, 1858, when the plan was adopted, was.....	$163,534 60
The amount expended to January 1st, 1859, was.....	585,369 27
The amount expended to January 1st, 1860, was.....	1,764,615 74

The entire amount of drain tile thus far laid on the Central Park, not including vitrified pipe and other materials used in the sewerage of roads, is as follows:

Between 59th and 79th streets.....	121,892 feet
" 79th and 96th streets.....	1,102 "
" 96th and 106th streets.....	21,929 "
Total.....	$144,923 feet

=27.^{440} miles.

This has cost the sum of $5,147 30.

=3½ cents per foot for all sizes.

The articles required for the Central Park are ordered by the

Board, or referred to the Executive Committee, consisting of five members of the Board, and after being ordered by this committee are purchased by its treasurer, with the aid of such person as he may employ for that purpose. Mr. B. F. Crane and Mr. Thomas Hogg are the only persons employed for such aid, with perhaps a rare exception, and for an amount rarely, if ever, exceeding at any one time one hundred dollars. No person who makes purchases for the Central Park is connected in any way with any firm in the city of New York or elsewhere, nor has any such person any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any firm in this city or elsewhere, to the knowledge of the Board.

The amount expended for the purchase of materials, &c., from May 1st, 1857, the date of the organization of the Board, to January 1, 1858, was—

For materials of construction and tools..	$1,940 03	
For stationery and printing.....	648 13	
Total from May 1st, 1857, to January 1st, 1858....		$2,588 16
Expended from January 1, 1858, to January 1, 1859:		
For materials of construction and tools..	$60,186 32	
" Stationery and printing.....	3,425 79	
" Trees and plants.....	5,529 83	
" Manure.....	6,734 20	
Total from Jan. 1, 1859, to Jan. 1, 1860.....		$75,876 14
Expended from January 1, 1859, to January 1, 1860:		
For materials of construction and tools.	$194,040 55	
" Trees and plants.....	12,491 05	
" Stationery and printing.....	5,718 60	
" Manure.....	7,204 60	
Total from Jan. 1, 1859, to Jan. 1, 1860.....		219,454 80
Total expenditure for purchases from May 1, 1857, to January 1, 1860, was.....		$297,919 10

The Board desires to express its firm conviction that the $2,500,000 specified in the bill now before the Senate, is fully

adequate to the completion of the Park in such a manner as shall be acceptable to the Public, and worthy the city of New York; and in asking for the present amount, the Board are governed by the belief that no additional or further sum will ever be required or asked for by them. Much of the information required by your Hon. Body has called for difficult and extensive computations, and has necessarily occupied time in its preparation.

The Board has herein endeavored to lay the information required before the Senate as promptly as was practicable; they feel and urge upon the Legislature the immense importance of an early provision of law to enable the Common Council of New York to provide the Board with means necessary to prosecute their work during the present month, and are gratified at the evidences of the deep interest that the progress of this great work of the metropolis has excited in the minds of the representatives of the people of the whole State.

The months of March and April are the planting months of spring, trees are purchased and on their way to the Park; the regular forces of the Park are waiting for employment.

To conduct extensive operations in any department of the Park requires previous provision of materials and organization of men. All these circumstances impress upon the Board the serious consequences of delay, yet the Commissioners cheerfully tender to your Honorable Body all the facilities in their power for obtaining the fullest information as to all departments of their work, as they believe that to spread information of this work in all its details, is to attract to its beauties new troops of admirers, and to confer upon its management an increase of the friendly regards and confidence of the people.

New York, March 8th, 1860.

Respectfully submitted,
By order of the Board.
R. M. Blatchford,
President of the Board of Commissioners of the Central Park.

Andw. H. Green,
Comptroller of the Park.

Wm. H. Grant, Esq.,
Superintending Engineer of the Central Park :

Sir,—The Honorable the Senate of the State, have propounded to the Board of Commissioners of the Central Park, among others, the following interrogatories :

"How much money has been expended below 79th street, or how much below 96th street? how much below 106th street, and the number of acres in each section belonging to the Park?"

"How much money is required to be expended in each section, stating the items of expenditure and the cost of each?"

Will you have the computations necessary to give a full answer to these questions carefully and accurately made, and send the result to me as promptly as is practicable with correctness.

Yours, respectfully,
Andrew H. Green,
Comptroller of the Park.

Andrew H. Green, Esq.,
Comptroller of the Park :

Sir,—In compliance with your instructions in reference to the interrogatories of the Honorable the Senate, I submit herewith the statements answering the same.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obdt. serv.,
Wm. H. Grant,
Superintending Engineer.

Central Park, March 8th, 1860.

Appendix A.

Statement in answer to inquiry No. 6, showing how much money has been expended below 79th Street; how much below 96th Street, and how much below 106th Street, and the number of acres in each section belonging to the Park, up to February 1st, 1860.

Classes of Expenditure.	1st. Below 79th St.	2d. Below 96th St.	3d. Below 106th St.	Aggregates.
Salaries and Compensation of Architects, Clerks, &c.	$50,159 53	$52,959 53	$ 56,339 53	
Surveys, Engineering and Draughtsmen	13,435 80	14,190 80	15,090 80	
Freight on Stone and Trees	10,553 19	10,553 19	10,553 19	
Incidental Expenses	21,086 55	22,270 55	23,691 55	
Materials of Construction and Tools	242,093 70	256,986 70	273,646 12	
Stationery, Printing, Advertising, Engineers' Drawing Materials, and Books of Accounts	8,511 52	8,991 52	9,565 52	
Pound	22 00	22 00	22 00	
Trees and Plants, Manure and Cartage of the same	28,450 33	28,450 33	28,450 33	
Broad Walk, North side of 59th Street	15,082 50	15,082 50	15,082 50	
Labor account, Amount paid Laborers, Cartmen, &c., as per pay-rolls, vouchers, &c.	1,183,337 00	1,256,135 22	1,337,562 88	
Totals of Sections	$1,572,732 12	$1,665,642 34	$1,770,004 42	
Aggregate below 106th Street				$1,770,004 42
The following items of general expenditure do not admit of distribution to the several sections, and are stated in the aggregate as follows:—				
Premiums for Plans				4,250 00
Park-keepers				38,318 15
Exhibition of Plans				521 72
Total expended from May 1st, 1857, to February 1st, 1860				$1,813,094 29

Number of acres in each section belonging to the Park.

1st.	59th Street to 79th Street	$326\frac{242}{1000}$	Acres.
2d.	79th Street inclusive to 96th Street	$141\frac{759}{1000}$	"
3d.	96th Street inclusive to 106th Street	$166\frac{016}{1000}$	"

Appendix B.

Statement in answer to inquiry No. 7, showing the amount of money required to be expended, the items of expenditure, and the cost of each item on the three several sections of the Park: 1st. 59th Street to 79th Street; 2d. 79th Street, inclusive, to 96th Street; 3d. 96th Street, inclusive, to 106th Street, from February 1st, 1860.

QUANTITIES.				ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE.	COST OF EACH ITEM.		
1st 59th Street to 79th Street.	2d 79th Street to 96th Street.	3d 96th Street to 106th St.			1st. 59th Street to 79th Street.	2d. 79th Street to 96th Street.	3d. 96th Street to 106th Street.
				EXTERIOR FENCE AND GATES.			
13,090	9,090	5,316	Lineal feet.	Iron fence with stone base,.....	$130,900	$90,900	$53,160
355	213	252	" "	Gate entrances.....	8,879	5,325	6,300
				EXTERIOR SLOPES AND RETAINING WALL.			
67,824	19,901	28,846	Cubic yards.	Earth and rock excavation.....	33,438	11,465	10,646
720	600	570	Lineal feet.	Retaining Wall.....	2,880	2,400	2,280
1,033			Lineal yards	*Sewer* from 8th Avenue to 5th Avenue through the Central Pond for City purposes.....	11,473		
				This work, being exclusively for the city sewerage, will, it is supposed, be controlled, as to plan, dimensions and execution, by the department having charge of such matters. It must be constructed under somewhat peculiar circumstances, owing to its passing through the bed of the Pond. Details of quantities cannot at present be stated.			

28,500			Cubic yards.	*Filling for Broad Walk, North side of 59th St.*	$9,975		
10,500		9,500	" "	*Grading open turfed grounds,* exclusive of trenching and manuring	2,625		$2,375
				Ponds, Excavating and Walling.			
4,500		4,800	" "	Rock excavation, including haul and distribution of material	5,625		6,000
25,000		32,000	" "	Earth excavation and filling	8,750		11,200
4,500		400	" "	Walling	2,025		1,800
150		1,200	" "	Puddling	75		600
		550	" "	Masonry in dams and walls			3,025
2		3		Filters in connection with inlets to ponds	1,165		1,750
		2		Gates, with pipes and appurtenances, in connec- with outlets to ponds			535
				Water Pipes for Park.—including Trenching (in earth and rock, &c.,) and hydrants.			
14,960	19,180	13,380	Lineal feet.	Pipes, mainly 4 to 10 inches diameter, laying same and refilling trenches	17,162	22,009	15,350
47	59	40		Hydrants and stop-cocks	1,584	2,056	1,489
95	120	90		Branches	209	264	198
				The estimate for water-pipes, &c., is based on the cost of the portion of the work done, but includes a liberal percentage over the proportional cost thus far indicated, to cover expenses connected with fountains, watering places, and some other details of plans not yet fully matured.			
66,728	36,500		Cubic yards.	*Filling low ground* in different parts, including shaping and trimming	23,355	12,875	
100	62	90	Acres.	*Trenching and manuring,* including the removal of stone and surfacing ground	53,137	32,944	47,823

QUANTITIES.				ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE.	COST OF EACH ITEM.		
1st 59th Street to 79th Street.	2d 79th Street to 96th Street	3d 96th Street to 106th St.			1st. 59th Street to 79th Street.	2d 79th Street to 96th Street.	3d 96th Street to 106th Street.
				ROADS AND WALKS.			
1.08	2.68	1.71	miles.	Carriage roads, 25 to 60 feet wide.....	$28,080	$69,680	$44,460
1.85	2 82	0.60	"	Equestrian roads, 25 to 30 "	15,725	23,970	5,100
4.01	5.94	5.15	"	Walks, 8 to 14 "	12,551	18,592	16,120
				Grading surface and for roads and walks.			
44,200	265,000	103,000	cubic yards.	Earth excavation and filling, including haul and distribution of materials.....	15,470	92,750	36,050
27,000	39,000	9,000	"	Rock do. do.	33,750	48,750	11,250
12	7	4		ARCHITECTURAL BRIDGES. There are thirty of these bridges contemplated for the Park, including four that have been finished and three that are very nearly finished. The data furnished by the latter is applied in estimating the cost of the twenty-three bridges remaining to be built. The detail of quantities cannot be stated with accuracy until the several plans are more fully matured. The number of bridges stated above, in the 1st section, between 59th and 79th streets, includes the bridge at the head of the Promenade, which is connected with	189,196	80,000	44,000

				a large amount of work for the Water Terrace, approach, &c., the cost of which is included.			
3				To complete 3 unfinished bridges	3,000		
				TRANSVERSE ROADS, including bridges over same			
				1st Section—1 Transverse Road & 4 bridges, 3 of the bridges nearly completed			
				2d Section—2 Transverse Roads & 5 bridges, and 1 tunnel, one of the roads and the tunnel partly finished			
				3d Section—1 Transverse Road and 2 bridges not commenced			
534	7,754	1,212	Cubic yards.	Masonry in bridges	3,204	46,524	7,272
2,646	6,667	4,205	" "	" " side walls	13,230	33,335	21,025
125,000	1,800,000	790,000		Brick in arches	1,500	21,600	9,480
	90	30	Cubic yards.	Brick Drains		720	240
	8,032	17,600	" "	Earth excavation, including haul & distribution		1,847	4,048
	17,095	37,000	" "	Rock " " " "		20,058	43,412
	2,000		" "	" " in tunnel " "		10,620	
50	762	283	Lineal feet.	Centering for arches	150	2,286	849
1,200	2,400	1,200	" "	Iron railing	8,400	16,800	8,400
				Trees and planting	15,000	28,000	20,000
				EXTERIOR PROMENADE.			
970	910	500	Cubic yards.	Rock excavation, to make room for planting trees	1,940	1,820	1,000
3,840	3,600	1,920	" "	Broken stone, hauling and spreading the same	4,186	3,924	2,093
1,920	1,800	960	" "	Gravel	3,264	3,060	1,632
				Manures and soil	1,920	1,800	960
				Trees and planting, rolling stone and gravel, and incidental expenses	3,212	3,012	1,606
				Drainage	3,000	3,500	4,500
1,100			Lineal yards.	*Sewer* across lower end of Park for city purposes. The explanation made as to the foregoing sewer for the same object, applies also to this	15,000		

Appendix B.—(*Continued.*)

Quantities. 1st 59th Street to 79th Street	Quantities. 2d 79th Street to 96th Street	Quantities. 3d 96th Street to 106th St.		Items of Expenditure.	Cost of each item. 1st 59th Street to 79th Street.	Cost of each item. 2d 79th Street to 96th Street.	Cost of each item. 3d 96th Street to 106th Street.
				The sum estimated ($15,000) is intended to be large enough to cover all reasonable or probable contingencies.			
				Sewers for Park Drainage.			
300		700	Lineal yards.	36 inch sewer	$2,490		$5,810
800	800	500	" "	24 " "	3,840	$3,840	2,400
250	300	350	" "	10 to 12 inch vitrified pipe	400	480	560
				Silt basins, and incidental expenses	1,400	1,800	2,000
				Superintendence	56,000	57,000	32,000
				Add 10 per cent. for contingencies	74,916	77,600	49,080
				Totals	$824,077	$853,606	$539,878

Central Park, March 7th, 1860.

WM. H GRANT,

Superintending Engineer.

Note.—A statement of the cost of the work by sections as called for in the above, must be, in a great measure hypothetical (as to the separate sections), as the division lines are arbitrary and not marked by the natural features of the ground, or by any proposed or practical improvement of it.

The several quantities and items of work have been separated on the proposed sectional lines, as nearly as the nature of the case would admit, but it would be impracticable to complete the improvements of either section without running into, or overlapping the adjoining ones, more or less, with some items of expense not shown in the above estimates, as belonging to them.

In regard to the division at 106th street, it has not been considered that the inquiry was made with reference to a final termination of the Park at that point, and the work that would be necessary, in the latter case, such as grading, filling and sloping the ground to adapt it to the city grade, of 106th street, and the necessary fence and gates along the same—has not been included in the estimate. No reliable estimate could, in fact, be made of such work until the grade of 106th street was fully established in connection with it.

Appendix C.

DESCRIPTION OF A PLAN FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CENTRAL PARK.

Topographical suggestions.

A GENERAL survey of the ground allotted to the park, taken with a view to arrive at the leading characteristics which present themselves, as all-important to be considered in adapting the actual situation to its purpose, shows us, in the first place, that it is very distinctly divided into two tolerably equal portions, which, for convenience sake, may be called the upper and the lower parks.

The upper park.

The horizontal lines of the upper park are bold and sweeping, and the slopes have great breadth in almost every aspect in which they may be contemplated. As this character is the highest ideal that can be aimed at for a park under any circumstances, and as it is in most decided contrast to the confined and formal lines of the city, it is desirable to interfere with it, by cross-roads, and other constructions, as little as possible. Formal planting and architectural effects, unless on a very grand scale, must be avoided; and as nearly all the land between the Reservoir and 106th street (west of the Boston Road) is seen in connection, from any point within itself, a unity of character should be studiously preserved in all the gardening details.

The lower park.

The lower park is far more heterogeneous in its character, and will require a much more varied treatment. The most important feature in its landscape, is the long rocky and wooded hill-side lying immediately south of the Reservoir. Inasmuch as beyond this point there do not appear to be any leading natural characteristics of similar consequence in the scenery, it will be important to draw as much attention as possible to this hill-side, to afford

facilities for rest and leisurely contemplation upon the rising ground opposite, and to render the lateral boundaries of the park in its vicinity as inconspicuous as possible. The central and western portion of the lower park is an irregular table-land; the eastern is composed of a series of of graceful undulations, suggesting lawn or gardenesque treatment. In the extreme south we find some flat alluvial meadow; but the general character of the ground is rugged, and there are several bold, rocky bluffs, that help to give individuality to this part of the composition. Such being the general suggestions that our survey has afforded, it becomes necessary to consider how the requirements of the Commission, as given in their instructions, may be met with the least sacrifice of the characteristic excellencies of the ground.

Preliminary considerations.

Up to this time, in planning public works for the city of New York, in no instance has adequate allowance been made for its increasing population and business; not even in the case of the Croton Aqueduct, otherwise so well considered. The City Hall, the best architectural work in the State, and built to last for centuries, does not at this time afford facilities for one-third of the business for which it was intended. The present Post-Office, expensively fitted up some ten years ago, no longer answers its purpose, and a new one of twice its capacity is imperatively demanded. The Custom-House, expressly designed for permanence, and constructed to that end at an enormous expense, less than twenty years ago, is not half large enough to accommodate the present commerce of the city.

The explanation of this apparently bad calculation, is mainly given with the fact, that at every census since that of 1800, the city's rate of increase has been found to be overrunning the rate previously established.

A wise forecast of the future gave the proposed park the name of Central. Our present chief magistrate, who can himself remember market-gardens below Canal street, and a post-and-rail fence on the north side of City-Hall Park, warned his coadjutors, in his inaugural message, to expect a great and rapid movement of population towards the parts

of the island adjoining the Central Park. A year hence, five city railroads will bring passengers as far up as the park, if not beyond it. Recent movements to transfer the steamboat landings and railroad stations, although as yet unsuccessful, indicate changes we are soon to expect.

The 17,000 lots withdrawn from use for building purposes in the park itself, will greatly accelerate the occupation of the adjoining land. Only twenty years ago, Union Square was "out of town;" twenty years hence, the town will have enclosed the Central Park. Let us consider, therefore, what will at that time be satisfactory, for it is then that the design will have to be really judged. No longer an open suburb, our ground will have around it a continuous high wall of brick, stone, and marble; the adjoining shores will be lined with commercial docks and warehouses; steamboat and ferry landings, railroad stations, hotels, theatres, factories, will be on all sides of it and above it: all of which our park must be made to fit.

The demolition of Columbia College, and the removal of the old cloistral elms which so long enshadowed it; the pertinacious demand for a division of Trinity Churchyard; the numerous instances in which our old graveyards have actually been broken up; the indirect concession of the most important space in the City-Hall Park for the purposes of a thoroughfare, and the further contraction it is now likely to suffer; together with the constant enormous expenditure of the city, and sacrifices of the citizens, in the straightening and widening of streets, are all familiar facts, and teach us a lesson of the most pressing importance in our present duty. To its application we give the first place in our planning.

The transverse roads

Our instructions call for four transverse roads. *Each* of these will be the single line of communication between one side of the town and the other, for a distance equal to that between Chambers street and Canal street. If we suppose but one crossing of Broadway to be possible in this interval, we shall realize what these transverse roads are destined to become. Inevitably they will be crowded thoroughfares,

having nothing in common with the park proper, but everything at variance with those agreeable sentiments which we should wish the park to inspire. It will not be possible to enforce the ordinary police regulations of public parks upon them. They must be constantly open to all the legitimate traffic of the city, to coal carts and butchers' carts, dust carts and dung carts; engine companies will use them, those on one side the park rushing their machines across it, with frantic zeal at every alarm from the other; ladies and invalids will need special police escort for crossing them, as they do in lower Broadway. Eight times in a single circuit of the park will they oblige a pleasure drive or stroll to encounter a turbid stream of coarse traffic, constantly moving at right angles to the line of the park itself.

The transverse roads will also have to be kept open, while the park proper will be useless for any good purpose after dusk; for experience has shown that even in London, with its admirable police arrangements, the public cannot be secured safe transit through large open spaces of ground after nightfall.

These public thoroughfares will then require to be well lighted at the sides; and, to restrain marauders pursued by the police from escaping into the obscurity of the park, strong fences or walls, six or eight feet high, will be necessary. One such street passes through the Regent's Park of London, at the Zoological Gardens. It has the objection that the fence, with its necessary gates at every crossing of the park drives, roads, or paths, is not only a great inconvenience, but a disagreeable object in the landscape. Foreign examples.

To avoid a similar disfigurement, an important street, crossing the garden of the Tuileries, is closed by gates at night, forcing all vehicles which would otherwise use it, to go a long distance to the right or left.

The form and position of the Central Park are peculiar in respect to this difficulty, and such that precedent, in dealing with it, is rather to be sought in the long and narrow Boulevards of some of the old Continental cities of Europe, than in the broad parks with which, from its area

in acres, we are most naturally led to compare it. The Boulevards referred to are, however, generally used only as promenades—not as drives or places of ceremony. In frequent instances, in order not to interrupt the alleys, the streets crossing them are made in the form of causeways, and carried over on high arches. This, of course, prevents, all landscape-gardening, since it puts an abrupt limit to the view. Some expedient is needed for the Central Park, by which the convenience of the arrangement may be retained, while the objection is as far as possible avoided.

The present design.

In the plan herewith offered to the Commission, each of the transverse roads is intended to be sunk so far below the general surface, that the park drives may, at every necessary point of intersection, be carried entirely over it, without any obvious elevation or divergence from their most attractive routes. The banks on each side will be walled up to the height of about seven feet, thus forming the protective barrier required by police considerations; and a little judicious planting on the tops or slopes of the banks above these walls, will in most cases entirely conceal both the roads and the vehicles moving in them, from the view of those walking or driving in the park.

If the position which has just been taken with regard to the necessity for permanently open transverse thoroughfares is found to be correct, it follows necessarily that the 700 acres allowed to the new park must, in the first instance, be subdivided [definitely, although, it is to be hoped, to some extent invisibly, into five separate and distinct sections, only connnected here and there by roads crossing them; and if the plan of making these thoroughfares by sunken roads is approved, they will, as it appears to us from the nature of the ground, have to be laid down somewhat on the lines indicated on the plan. If so, the problem to be solved is narrowed in its dimensions, and the efforts of the landscape gardener can be no longer directed to arranging a design that shall agreeably use up the space of 700 acres allotted, but to making some plan that shall have unity of effect as a whole, and yet avoid all collision in its detailed, features, with the intersecting lines thus suggested. It is on

this basis that the present plan has, in the first instance, been founded. If the sunken transverse roads were omitted, the design would not be less complete in character; but it is, on the other hand, so laid out that the transverse thoroughfares do not interfere materially with its general or detailed effect.

After having planned the park drives agreeably to these views, we observed that three additional, moderately direct, transverse roads had occurred. These will afford facilities for crossing the park to all vehicles of classes which it will be proper to admit upon them, such as hackney coaches and all private carriages; and thus seven transverse roads will be really provided to be used during daylight. Four roads will probably be amply adequate for the night traffic needing to cross the park; but it must be questionable if this number would be sufficient during the day. Surface transverse roads.

As it is not proposed that the park proper shall be lighted at night, it is well worth while to consider if the advantages which it offers as an interesting promenade, may not yet in some way be obtained at night. The exterior.

The ordinance that regulates the width of Fifth avenue, allows a space of fifteen feet on each side, exclusive of the sidewalks and the roadway; consequently, a space thirty feet in width, for promenade, is already provided on this side of the park for its whole length. On the Eighth avenue, a similar arrangement may probably be effected, and as there would be no occasion to back up carts against the park side of the avenue, it is feasible to carry the railway tracks close to the edge of the promenade, thus leaving a clear space for carriages on the building side, and making the access to the park side more clean and convenient. Fifth avenue. Eighth avenue Railroad.

On the southern boundary, it is not desirable to reduce the already moderate width of the carriage-way. It is, on the other hand, a question whether, as the streets and the park both, in reality, are the property of one owner—the city—this street should not be treated in a similar manner. It will, from its position, be in time rather crowded with traffic, and will, therefore, have some claim to be widened on this ground alone. As a question of beauty of arrangement for the park itself, however, it is conceived that if by Fifty-ninth and One Hundred and Sixth streets.

this management a more stately character than could otherwise be obtained will be secured to the outer boundaries of the park, it will be cheaply purchased at the sacrifice of a few feet at the south end, off its present length of two and half miles. In riding along any of the avenues, the eye cannot fail to be struck with the great difference in dignity of effect, between such streets as Fourteenth and Twenty-Third, and those intermediate; and it would be a matter of regret, that the source of effect so easily obtained, should be lost in connection with the grand approaches to the park, because it does not happen that its boundaries at present coincide with the wide streets laid out on the working plan upon which the city is being constructed. If, moreover, the advantage of the evening promenade is allowed to be of importance, we should be sorry to dispense with this section of it, which would be the only portion having a direct communication from the Sixth and Seventh avenues.

Treatment of boundary lines.

For the purpose of concealing the houses on the opposite side of the street, from the park, and to insure an umbrageous horizon line, it is proposed, as will be seen in the plan, to plant a line of trees all around the outer edge of the park, between the sidewalk and the roadway. On approaching the Fifth and Eighth avenue entrances, this line of trees along Fifty-ninth street will come prominently into view, and have a handsome effect if the street is widened; but if Fifty-ninth street is allowed to remain as a narrow street, it is feared that it will be difficult to prevent this boundary line of the park from having a contracted and somewhat mean appearance. Hence, we have thought it proper, in our plan, to assume the advantage and practicability of this arrangement to be conceded; but, if this should not be the case, it will be readily perceived that it forms no essential part of our design.

On the space originally provided for a sidewalk on the park side of the streets and avenues, there will, in any case, be room for such a line of trees as we have proposed. The continuous exterior mall should by no means be given up, even though it cannot be made in all parts as wide as we have proposed. At many points, and frequently for quite long distances, it will form an elevated terrace, com-

commanding extensive views over the park, of the most interesting character; and a mere parapet-wall three or four feet high, will, in such cases, be all-sufficient for the safety of promenaders and the protection of the park from interlopers.

The handsomest approach from the city is certain to be along the Fifth avenue, and it has been thought necessary to view with special care the angle of the park first reached from this direction, because it will be generally felt that immediate entrance should be had at this point. Fifth avenue entrance.

The grade of the avenue has been established so high, that considerable filling-in would be required to avoid a rapid descent; but directly this single difficulty is overcome, the ground beyond has great advantages for the purpose of a dignified entrance to the park. A massive rock, that will be in connection with this requisite made ground, offers a sufficiently large natural feature to occupy the attention, and will at once reduce the artificial character to a position of minor importance. If next, we stand upon that portion of the rock which (a little north of the large cherry-tree) is at grade-height, we find that there is another rocky hillock within a short distance, in the direction a visitor to the park would most naturally pursue—that is to say, towards the centre of the park. This can be easily reached by slightly raising the intermediate ground; by then sweeping to the right, the natural conformation of the surface offers an easy ascent (by the existing cart-way over Sixty-third street) to a plateau (two rods west of the powder-house), directly connected with the extensive table-land which occupies the centre of the lower half of the park.

From this plateau (now occupied mainly by the nursery) a view is had of nearly all the park up to the Reservoir, in a northerly direction; and on looking to the south and west, we perceive that there are natural approaches from these directions, which suggest that we have arrived at a suitable point of concentration for all approaches which may be made from the lower part of the city to the interior of the park.

Vista Rock, the most prominent point in the landscape

of the lower park, here first comes distinctly into view, and fortunately in a direction diagonal to the boundary lines, from which it is desirable to withdraw attention in every possible way. We therefore accept this line of view as affording an all-sufficient motive to our further procedure. Although averse, on general principles, to a symmetrical arrangement of trees, we consider it an essential feature of a metropolitan park, that it should contain a grand promenade, level, spacious, and thoroughly shaded. This result can in no other way be so completely arrived at as by an avenue; which, in itself, even exclusive of its adaptability for this purpose, contains so many elements of grandeur and magnificence, that it should be recognized as an essential feature in the arrangement of any large park.

The Avenue.

The objection to which it is liable is, that it divides the landscape into two parts, and it is therefore desirable to decide at what point this necessity can be submitted to with the least sacrifice to the general effect. The whole topographical character of the park is so varied, so suggestive of natural treatment, so picturesque, so individual in its characteristics, that it would be contrary to common sense to make the avenue its leading feature, or to occupy any great extent of ground for this special purpose. It must be subservient to the general design, if that general design is to be in accordance with the present configuration of the ground, and we have therefore thought that it should, so far as possible, be complete in itself, and not become a portion of any of the leading drives. There is no dignity of effect to be produced by driving through an avenue a quarter of a mile long, unless it leads to and becomes an accessory of some grand architectural structure, which itself, and not the avenue, is the ultimatum of interest. An avenue for driving in should be two or three miles long, or it will be petite and disappointing. We have therefore thought it most desirable to identify the idea of the avenue with the promenade, for which purpose a quarter of a mile is not insufficient, and we can find no better place for such a grand mall or open air hall of reception, as we desire to have, than the ground before us.

In giving it this prominent position, we look at it in the light of an artificial structure on a scale of magnitude commensurate with the size of the park, and intend in our design that it should occupy the same position of relative importance in the general arrangement of the plan, that a mansion should occupy in a park prepared for private occupation. The importance that is justly connected with the idea of the residence of the owner in even the most extensive private grounds, finds no parallel in a public park, however small, and we feel that the interest of the visitor, who, in the best sense, is the true owner, in the latter case, should concentrate on features of natural, in preference to artificial beauty. Many elegant buildings may be appropriately erected for desirable purposes in a public park; but we conceive that all such architectural structures should be confessedly subservient to the main idea, and that nothing artificial should be obtruded on the view as an ultimatum of interest. The idea of the park itself should always be uppermost in the mind of the beholder. Holding this general principle to be of considerable importance, we have preferred to place the avenue where it can be terminated appropriately at one end with a landscape attraction of considerable extent, and to relieve the south entrance with only so much architectural treatment as may give the idea that due regard has been paid to the adornment of this principal promenade, without interfering with its real character. The Promenade.

This avenue may be considered the central feature in our plan for laying out the lower park, and the other details of arrangement are more or less designed in connection with it.

To the west is the parade ground, containing about twenty-five acres, that may, at a moderate expense, be levelled and made suitable for its purpose; and also some eight or ten acres of broken ground, that will be more or less available for military exercises. Such a broad open plane of well kept grass would be a refreshing and agreeable feature in the general design, and would bear to be of much greater extent than is here shown, if the lot were of Parade ground.

a different shape; but, under the circumstances, twenty five acres seems as much as can well be spared for the purpose. A military entrance from Eighth avenue is proposed to be made at Sixty-ninth street, which has been already, at considerable expense, cut through the rock at this point, and offers a suggestion for a picturesque approach, with a portcullis gate, and with the main park drive carried over it at a higher level.

Playground.

The natural southern boundary of the table-land, occupied by the parade ground, is a rapid slope, that occurs about in the line of Sixty-sixth street; in this slope it is proposed to sink one of the transverse roads; and on a level plane below it, stretching to the south, a play-ground, about 10 acres in extent, is located, as indicated on the plan. We have thought it very desirable to have a cricket ground of this size near the southern boundary of the Park, and not far from the Sixth and Eighth Avenue Railroads, which offer the most rapid means of access from the lower part of the city.

In this playground sites are suggested for two buildings of moderate dimensions; one for visitors to view the games, which would be appropriately located on a large rock that overlooks the ground; and the other for the players, at the entrance from the transverse road, by which an exit could be obtained from the playground after the other gates were closed. Only one mass of rock of any considerable magnitude would require to be blasted out for the purpose of adapting this ground to its intended purpose; its position is indicated on the plan by a red cross, and the object of its removal will be seen on examination. This part of the design is illustrated in study No. 2. The ground at the southwest corner of the park it is proposed to fill in, sufficiently to make, on the plan indicated, an agreeable Eighth avenue entrance.

The lower lake.

To the southeast of the promenade, and between the Fifth and Sixth avenue entrances, it is proposed to form a lake of irregular shape, and with an area of eight or nine acres. This arrangement has been suggested by the present nature of the ground, which is low, and somewhat

swampy. It is concieved that, by introducing such an ornamental sheet of water into the composition at this point, the picturesque effect of the bold bluffs that will run down to its edge and overhang it, must be much increased; and that by means of such a natural boundary, this rocky section of the park will be rendered more retired and attractive as a pleasant walk or lounge. The proposed effect of this part of the design, as it will appear from the Fifth avenue entrance, is indicated on study No. 1.

The Arsenal.

To the southeast of the promenade will be found that portion of the park in which the present Arsenal is situated. This ground is undulating and agreeable in its character, and will offer pleasant opportunities for shady walks. The Arsenal itself, although at present a very unattractive structure, and only tolerably built, contains a great deal of room, in a form that adapts it very well to the purposes of a museum. It is proposed, therefore, to improve its external appearance, so far as may be necessary, without changing its shape or usefulness, or going to any great expense; and as it occurs rather near the Fifth avenue entrance, and is, therefore, likely to occupy too considerable a share of attention, if left exposed to view from the south, it is intended, as early as possible, to plant in its vicinity forest-trees, calculated to become handsome specimens of large size, and that will, after a few years, prevent the museum from attracting an undue share of attention in the general landscape.

Music Hall.

To the east of the promenade, there will be a half mile stretch of lawn and trees extending from the vicinity of Fifty-ninth street to Seventy-second street, and this will be the dress ground of the park; and in a prominent position on this ground, and immediately connected with the grand mall, the site for a music hall, called for in our instructions, has been set apart; and we have suggested that a palm-house and large conservatory should be added to this music hall whenever it is built.

This site is recommended because it is conspicuous, without being obtrusive, and is easy of access from the promenade and from one of the leading avenue entrances;

while, to the north, it commands from its terraces and verandas the finest views that are to be obtained in the lower part of the park. It also overlooks the site which we have selected as most appropriate for the flower-garden, called for in our instructions; and this we consider a decided advantage, as the most attractive view of a flower-garden is from some point above it, that will enable the visitor to take in at a glance a general idea of the effect aimed at.

The Flower Garden.

The garden is located in low ground to the northeast of the promenade, and is designed close to Fifth avenue, the grade of which, at the centre line of the garden, is about twenty feet above the present level of the ground; this, for the reasons above stated, we consider a desideratum, and have suggested that over the arcade or veranda that we propose should be built against the east wall of the park, in connection with the garden, a structure should be erected, with an entrance on a level with the avenue, so as to give an opportunity for a view of the garden, both from this level and from another story above it. This idea is not, of course, necessary to the design, and the sketch submitted is merely a suggestion, to show what may be done at some future time.

The plan of the flower garden itself is geometrical; and it is surrounded by an irregular and less formal plantation of shrubs, that will serve to connect it with the park proper. In the centre it is proposed to construct a large basin for a fountain, with a high jet; other smaller jets are prepared for, as indicated; and, in connection with the north wall, which will be somewhat below the surface of the ground beyond, it is proposed to arrange some such wall fountain as the celebrated one of Trevi. The water for this fountain will, in the present case, be supplied from the overflow from the skating pond, and also from the reservoir, and will fall into a semi-circular marble basin, with a paved floor. Such a fountain is out of place unless it can be furnished with an ample supply of water; but, in the position assigned to it on our plan, there will be no difficulty in procuring all the water that can be required for the purpose; and it seems desirable, therefore, to take advantage of the opportunity

offered, for the effect of a sculptured fountain of this sort is quite distinct from that produced by a jet d'eau.

A colored plan of this part of the design is illustrated to an enlarged scale on study No. 11.

To the northwest of the promenade is a slope, offering an appropriate site for a summer-house, that in such a situation should have some architectural pretension; and further to the west, near Eighth avenue, is a stretch of table-land, terminated by an abrupt rocky descent, that suggests itself as well suited for a Casino or refreshment house.

From the upper end of the promenade the rocky hill-side to the north, surmounted by Vista Rock at its highest point, comes into full view; and on this rock it will be generally conceded a tower should be erected—but by no means a large one, or the whole scale of the view will be destroyed. To the north and northwest of the promenade, a tract of low ground is proposed to be converted into the skating pond called for in our instructions; and the picturesque scenery between Vista Rock and the promenade will thus be heightened in effect, when seen from the south side of this lake, of about fourteen acres. A terrace approach, as shown on the plan, and on study No. 3, is proposed, from the avenue to the water. This feature, although by no means absolutely necessary, would add much to the general effect, and could be introduced at any future time, if it is preferred at present to treat the ground occupied by it in a less artificial style.

Immediately in the vicinity of Vista Rock is the south wall of the present reservoir. This wall occupies the whole of the middle of the park, and is a blank, uninteresting object, that can in no way be made particularly attractive. We have, therefore, thought it necessary to bear this in mind in arranging the general plan, and have given a direction to the lines of drive leading this way from the lower part of the park, that will enable them to avoid the wall of the reservoir altogether. The necessity for doing this has induced us to commence diverting the lines of drive at the south end of the grand promenade, which seems to offer a sufficient reason for so doing, and to lead them after-

wards on their northerly course in such a way that they may pass naturally to the east and west of the reservoir. If any drive proceeded in the direction of the line of avenue, and at once crossed the ground proposed to be occupied by the lake, the reservoir would inevitably become the terminal feature of the lower part of the park, and this would be disagreeable. The skating pond will offer a sufficiently natural barrier to this direct mode of proceeding, and will furnish a reason for locating the promenade in its proposed position, and also for terminating it where suggested; and by carrying a road along the edge of the water, an opportunity will be given to lengthen out the drive commanding the principal views in this vicinity; the lake will also help to give a retired and agreeable character to the hill-side beyond, which is well adapted for picnic parties and pleasant strolls. Even if the reservoir did not occur in its present position, the conformation of the ground is such that the roads would naturally take, to a considerable extent, the direction indicated, leaving the centre of the park undivided by a drive.

The management of the ground between the skating pond and Vista Rock appears to be indicated by its form and the character of its present growth. It is well sheltered, and large masses of rock occur at intervals. The soil is moist, and altogether remarkably well adapted to what is called in Europe an American garden—that is, a ground for the special cultivation of hardy plants of the natural order Ericacæi, consisting of rhododendrons, andromedas, azaleas, kalmias, rhodora, &c. The present growth, consisting of sweet gum, spice-bush, tulip tree, sassafras, red maple, black oak, azalea, andromeda, &c, is exceedingly intricate and interesting. The ground is at present too much encumbered with stone, and with various indifferent plants. By clearing these away, and carefully leaving what is valuable —by making suitable paths, planting abundantly, as above suggested, and introducing fastigiate shrubs and evergreens occasionally, to prevent a monotony of bushes—the place may be made very charming. Where the hill-side approaches the lake, sufficient openings are proposed to be

left for occasional glimpses, or more open views, of the water; and glades of fine turf are intended to occur at favorable intervals, so as to offer pleasant spots for rest and recreation.

To the east and southeast of the present reservoir, the general conformation of the surface continues to be of the same easy, undulating character as that to the east of the promenade, and can be treated in a similar manner. The whole space is intended to be occupied with stretches of well-kept turf, with fine groups and single trees, so planted that they may appear to advantage, and not crowd each other. That portion which is immediately east of the reservoir, is set apart for one of the playgrounds; and in the strip of land between the main drive and the reservoir wall, a reserved garden is provided for, with gardener's house attached; this will be needed in connection with the flower garden already described. On the west side of the reservoir, the ground is of an irregular character, which continues past the old and new reservoirs to the upper end of the site. The spaces remaining for park use will, however, be so much contracted by the reservoir walls and embankments, that extended landscape effects are out of the question. It is intended, therefore, as the soil and situation are adapted to the purpose, to arrange in this locality a winter drive about a mile and a half in length, and to plant somewhat thickly with evergreens, introducing deciduous trees and shrubs occasionally, to relieve the monotony of effect that might otherwise occur. Large open glades of grass are introduced among these plantations of evergreens, as the effect aimed at, is not so much that of a drive through a thick forest, crowded with tall spindling trees, as through a richly wooded country, in which the single trees and copses have had plenty of space for developing their distinctive characteristics to advantage. Immediately south and west of the present reservoir, terraces have been already formed, and these can readily be converted into continuous arbors, or berceau walks. Access will thus be provided to all the gates of the reservoir, and the wall will itself be planted out. The effect of these

Playground.

Winter drive.

Berceau walks.

closely-shaded walks will also, it is conceived, offer an agreeable contrast to the views obtainable from Vista Rock, in the immediate vicinity. In the northern section of this locality, and in connection with one of the transverse roads, will be found the house of the Superintendent, the office of the Commission, the police station, and other necessary buildings, such as stables, &c. The site is not far from the one at present occupied by the police, and is thought to be well suited for its purpose. By making a private entrance along the wall of the reservoir, the whole establishment can be immediately connected, by means of the transverse road, with the city streets, and at the same time be central and elevated, without being unpleasantly prominent. It is proposed, as will be seen on the plan, to make short connections from the park roads to the transverse thoroughfare north of the present reservoir, so as to admit of visitors shortening the drive in this way if preferred.

Police station.

The new reservoir, with its high banks, will take up a great deal of room in the park, and although it will offer a large sheet of water to the view, it will be at too high a level to become a landscape attraction from the ordinary drives and walks. It is suggested, therefore, that all round it a ride shall be constructed, and carefully prepared for this purpose only; and although this feature may be somewhat costly in the first instance, it is conceived that the result would be worth the outlay, for the sake of its advantages as a ride over a mile and a half in length, commanding the view of the reservoir, and uninterfered with by the regular drives, although in connection with them at different points.

Reservoir ride.

On the east of the new reservoir, the park is diminished to a mere passage-way for connection, and it will be difficult to obtain an agreeable effect in this part of the design, unless some architectural character is given to it. It is not recommended, however, to attempt any such effect immediately, or out of the funds of the Commission, but to accept the high bank of the reservoir as a barrier to the west, for a few years; because it is thought that as soon as this part of the city is built up to any considerable extent, it will

not be difficult to obtain an enriched architectural effect, appropriate to the purpose, without expense to the Commission. An arcade, 100 feet deep, could be substantially built, and the drive could be carried above this arcade, on a level with the reservoir, and overlooking Fifth avenue, the remainder of the ground being filled in; and it is thought that as this arcade may be lighted from the rear, and will face a fashionable thoroughfare, it will offer at no distant period, very valuable lots for stores, or other purposes; and as it is a third of a mile in extent, it may be a source of revenue, in rent, to the park fund, instead of a burden on it.

Tower on Bogardus Hill.

The northwesterly portion of the park, above the new reservoir, is planned very simply, in accordance with what we conceive to be the suggestion of the ground. The evergreen drive is continued nearly to the foot of Bogardus Hill, and then, somewhat changing its character, turns to the east. At this point a branch road crosses a brook, that is made to expand into a pool a little below the bridge; and this road then winds gradually to the top of the hill, which offers an available site for some monument of public importance, that may also be used as an observatory tower. If, as is not improbable, the trans-atlantic telegraph is brought to a favorable issue, while the park is in an early stage of construction, many reasons could, we think, be urged for commemorating the event by some such monument as the one suggested, on the plan, and in study No. 9. The picturesque effect of a spring of clear water, that already exists in this vicinity, may be heightened, as suggested in study No. 10.

The central portion of the upper section of the park is left as open as possible, and can be levelled so far as may required for the purposes of the playgrounds indicated on the plan, and on study No. 7. At present, it is hardly thought that it would be necessary to make the Sixth avenue entrance to the north, but its position is indicated.

The northeast section of the upper park is shown as an arboretum of American trees, so that every one who wishes to do so may become acquainted with the trees and shrubs

that will flourish in the open air in the northern and middle sections of our country.

The Arboretum.

This arboretum is not intended to be formally arranged, but to be so planned that it may present all the most beautiful features of lawn and woodland landscape, and at the same time preserve the natural order of families, so far as practicable. The botanical student will thus be able to find any tree or shrub without difficulty. We have selected this tract, of about forty acres, in the upper angle of the site, so as to interfere with the more special requirements of the park as little as possible. The spot chosen is in some measure separated from the rest of the grounds, by a ridge of land between Fifth and Sixth avenues, and includes the buildings on Mount St. Vincent. The wooden structures would be removed, and the brick chapel converted into a museum and library of botany, similar to that at Kew, but with more specific regard to landscape and decorative gardening. In the park itself there will be numerous specimens of all the trees, native or foreign, that are likely to thrive; but it is proposed to limit this particular collection to American trees, because the space necessary for a complete arboretum would occupy several hundred acres, and also because it will afford an opportunity to show the great advantage that America possesses in this respect. No other extra-tropical country could furnish one-quarter the material for such a collection. In the whole of Great Britain, for example, there are less than twenty trees, native to the island, that grow to be 30 feet in height; while in America we have from five to six times that number. There are, indeed, already forty species of the largest native trees standing in the park, which is nearly equivalent to the number to be found in all Europe.

It is proposed to plant from one to three examples of each species of tree on open lawn, and with sufficient space about each to allow it to attain its fullest size with unrestricted expanse of branches; the effect of each tree is also to be exhibited in masses, so as to illustrate its qualities for grouping. Space is provided to admit of at least three specimens of every native tree which is known to flourish

in the United States, north of North Carolina; also for several specimens of every shrub; these latter, however, except in particular instances, are not expected to be planted singly, but in thickets, and as underwood to the coppice masses—as may best accord with their natural habits, and be most agreeable to the eye. Further details of this part of the design will be found in the explanatory guide to the arboretum, submitted with the plan, in which the proposed arrangement of all the trees is set forth in order.

The leading features of the plan have now, it is thought, been referred to. It has not been considered necessary to especially particularize the different trees proposed to be used in the various parts of the park. For the purposes of the avenue, the American elm naturally suggests itself at once as the tree to be used; and it is hoped that the fine effect this produces, when planted in regular lines, may in a few years be realized in the Central Park.

There is no other part of the plan in which the planting calls for particular mention, except to the south of the skating pond; an opportunity is there offered for an exhibition of semi-tropical trees, and it is intended to treat that portion of the park in the manner suggested in study No.

A list of the trees to be used is appended to the explanation of the arboretum.

The plan does not show any brooks, except a small one in connection with the pool at the foot of Bogardus Hill, which can always be kept full by the waste water from the New Reservoir. Mere rivulets are uninteresting, and we have preferred to collect the ornamental water in large sheets, and to carry off through underground drains the water that at present runs through the park in shallow brooks.

As a general rule, we propose to run footpaths close to the carriage roads, which are intended to be 60 feet wide, allowing a space of four feet of turf as a barrier between the drive and the path. Other more private footpaths are introduced, but it is hardly thought that any plan would be popular in New York, that did not allow of a continuous

promenade along the line of the drives, so that pedestrians may have ample opportunity to look at the equipages and their inmates.

It will be perceived that no long straight drive has been provided on the plan; this feature has been studiously avoided, because it would offer opportunities for trotting matches. The popular idea of the park is a beautiful open green space, in which quiet drives, rides, and strolls may be had. This cannot be preserved if a race-course, or a road that can readily be used as a race-course, is made one of its leading attractions.

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